OAK AND IRON FOR STONE

THE STATE CAPITOL MUCH IMPROVED.

A HANDSOME WOODEN CEILING REPLACES THE OLD ONE, AND THE ACOUSTIC PROPERTIES ARE DECIDEDLY BETTER.

Albany, Dec. 22.-Mr. Andrews, the superintendent of the Capitol, who has had charge of the repair of the Assembly Chamber, says that the room will be ready for the occupation of the Assemblymen by Tuesday next. This will be a fortnight in advance of the time of the meeting of the Legislature. Doubtthe Assemblymen will hear of the announcement with a good deal of satisfaction; especially the old members, who remember that the last winter they had to emigrate to two different apartments, both of them uncomfortably small for 128 men's daily work-the Assembly Parlor and the Court of Appeals Moreover, the Assembly Chamber Itself was a chamber of horrors," with its crumbling stone ceiling weighing hundreds of tons hanging above the heads of every one and threatening to fall every When the Assemblymen return to Albany, however, it will be with the prospect of passing a far pleasanter winter, so far as their life in the Capitol is concerned, than they did last winter. Before they departed from Albany they put a law upon the statute books appropriating \$277,000 for removal of the stone ceiling and the substitu tion of a wooden ceiling for it, and for the repairing of the grand stairway leading to the Assembly Chamber, which was in a condition perflous to life, owing the sinking of its foundation. The whole work was put in charge of a commission composed o several Assemblymen, who appointed Mr. Andrews, superintendent for the contractors. It was the design of Mr. Andrews for the reconstruction of the Assembly Chamber that was adopted. That design neluded not only the removal of the stone ceiling, the room by closing up cavern-like spaces in the galleries, into which the words of cloquent Asallymen disappeared and never returned to de-The removal of the stone celllight patient hearers. ing was one of great delicacy and some peril. The ceiling weigned 3,350 tons; and it was important that es should be removed unless strong timbers arches to be weakened to uphold them. Otherwise entire ceiling might tumble upon the heads of the workingmen. Mr. Sullivan, the contractor, who removed the ceiling, says that he never passed such an anxious summer. He remained in the Assembly Chamber night after night studying the best means of removing this or that portion of the ceiling safely; although he had every portion of the ceiling shored up with big timbers, he was always fearing some catastrophe. It was with a great sense of relief that he saw the last ponderous stone lifted by a derrick and swung out of the Capitol. Washington which runs along the north side of the Capitol, was half filled with the stone which had been taken out of the Assembly Chamber and Albany people gazed with wonder upon the mass of rock which had hus been removed from the Capitol without affecting apparently its bulk. It could easily be thought that the product of several quarries had suddenly been

When the stone ceiling had been removed Mr. Andrews substituted for it a strikingly handsome one of quartered oak. The stone had been of a sold gray color, giving the room, despite somewhat parish ornamentation otherwise, a tomb-like appearance. The substitution of yellow oak imparted warmth of color that had been long needed. All isitors to the Capitol will remember that the stone was upheld by four massive, red grantte twelve and a half feet in circumference Mr. Andrews extended these pillars nine feet, making their total height thirty-nine feet. Four pillars eleven feet in length, were imposed upon each of the four granite columns, thus creating a column fifty feet in height. It should be stated that the fron columns have been encased in oak, which in curving lines supports the ceiling. the columns were finished two enormous girders of fron, eleven feet in width, were placed upon the pillars and also extended into the side walls of building. Eighteen lateral girders were atto the great ones, and then eye beams fastened the iron girders together. There was thus a twork of iron formed above the Assembly Chamber and ferming a flat ceiling above it. Neither the Assemblymen nor the public need be apprehensive of the weight of the new ceiling. While the stone ceiling weighed 3,350 tons, the present ceiling weighs only 400 tons. But there will be nothing ponderous in the appearance of the ceiling to those occupying the room; for all the iron-work has been wrapped about with handsome oak timbers. These oak timbers cross each other at regular intervals, forming square spaces. The interior of the square places the base filled with rapper mache, starmed with a general time and at last gave up in despair, while the Indians left him in contempt. He timbers cross each other at regular intervals, forming square spaces. The interior of the square places the base filled with rapper mache, starmed with a square place starmed with a square place. has been filled with papier mache, stamped with a carved oak panels. The flat ceiling, it is believed, will so improve the acoustics of the room that the Assemblymen will now and then in the future be able to hear the speeches of their brethren on the opposite side of the Assembly Chamber. But as wigwam for the speeches of "big chiefs" the room has been improved in other respects. Spaces in the galleries have been closed with stone. curtains; and other spaces beneath the galleries have been closed up with partitions of mahogany. two rooms thus created beneath the galleries have two rooms thus created beneath the galieries have been provided with glass doors and glass windows; and they are to be surrendered to the Assemblymen as smoking-rooms. Whenever there is a prosy speech in process of delivery in the future the borea Assemblyman will have a chance to slip over to one of the smoking-rooms and enjoy a cigar. Looking through the glass doors he will be able to watch the proceedings of the Assembly and be able to decide when his presence in the Chamber is necessary. The stone curtain which has been constructed to conceal the former cavern in the East Galiery. The stone curtain which has been constructed to conceal the former cavern in the East Galiery. New York in gigantic size, 9 feet by 8 feet, and then had the arms glided, so that it looks as if it were made of solid gold. Further, Mr. Andrews has much improved the lighting of the room. There are ten windows on each side of the Assembly Chambersome twenty-five feet above the floor. These have been filled with the handsome cahetrical lights, will hang from the oak ceiling. Speaker Cole has also been provided with an additional room, one which he has much needed, and now has a range of three rooms for his use in the separation of his visitors. The old carpet of the Assembly Chamber has also been taken up, and an exceedingly beautiful new one laid down in its place. The Assembly men when they look over their room cannot but think that it has been greatly leantified. been provided with glass doors and glass windows; beautified.

General Husted when here a week ago tried his clarion voice in the Chamber and when its reverberations had died away declared that its acoustic properties had been greatly improved.

THE NAVY YARD INVESTIGATION. The report of Paymaster R. W. Allen, and of Mr. Heishell, of the Attorney-General's office at Washington, covering the investigation of the methods employed in the awarding of contracts and purchase of stores by the Purchasing Paymaster of the Navy Yard, was sent to the Navy Department more than a month ago, and the one or two officers and the employes reported to be implicated in the irregularities have een anxiously awaiting the result. One of the of. ficers at the yard said yesterday: "The report was of a confidential nature and will be so regarded by Secretary, but the recent orders of Pay Inspecto Stephenson to the Pensacola is conclusive evidence that he is not to come under the ban of a court martial, and that he was not mixed up in the affair as was intimated. Of the two clerks who were arrested on a charge of collusion with thieves, one has died and the other has fled to Canada. The others who were discharged were simply charged with negligence and incompetency. Under Paymaster Loomis the department is now conducted in a more business-like way, but he does not stand well with some of the contractors who attempted to furnish a poorer grade of flour and coffee than was called for. The report calls special attempted in the loose methods formerly pursued and specifies instances of negligence that were proved and which resulted in a dishonest appropriation of Government property to a large amount."

TO BE BUILT OUTSIDE OF PHILADELPHIA. Philadelphia, Dec. 22 (Special).—The trustees of the proposed T. V. Williamson Industrial School have deined to erect the buildings outside of Philadelphia County because of the excessive price demanded for an available site within the county. The school will probably be built at either Ogontz, Langhorne or near West Chester.

CANDIDATES FOR SENATOR IN NEW-JERSEY. From The Trenton Gazette.

From The Trenton Gazette.

There is no doubt that McPherson put in the largest boodie." There is no doubt that he opened his barrel at the bung and poured out its golden contents in copions streams. We hear of his liberal, and indeed, enormous contributions in many parts of the State. Of gourse, his money was placed where it would do the most good for McPherson.

Leon Abbett, however, has seme peculiar elements of strength that make him a formidable rival. He has a warm place in the hearts of the boys that the cold and calculating McPherson has never been able to win. His dash, his pluck, his audaolty, his sunny temper, have made him the idol

of the "short hairs." His daring unscrupulousness, his ligenious but unprincipled schemes for defrauding the Republicans, his unfaitering courage under the most crushing reverses, have endeared him to "the hows" and excited the reluctant admiration even of his enemies. His popularity with the partisans and mercenaries will be a point in his favor in the coming battle. His connection with the liquor interest, however, will be his strongest "hold."

A LUCKLESS MEDICINE MAN. MISTAKES OF FROST, A SIOUX PROPHET

HE STARTS A FALSE RUMOR OF WAR AND MAKES

OTHER FAILURES-PUT IN CHAINS. Bismarck, Dak. Ter., Dec. 15.-I recently vis ited the Standing Rock Indian Agency and was more than repaid by an interview with the guards, who are now watching the Indian, Frost, who caused the war scare between the Sloux and the Crows. It will be remembered that the Sloux started out mor than a month ago with war paint and tom-toms to the Crowe, who, Frost informed them, were coming to make an attack. Frost's authority news was a dream, and as he is one of the young medicine men of the tribe, the Indians believed him. At that time the leading chiefs were in Washington trying diplomacy with the "Great Father," and the rank and file were bewildered. Believing that the Crows were about to take advantage of the absence of their great commanders, Gall, John Grass and Sitting Bull, the Sloux gathered about Frost and depended entirely upon the power of his " medicine" and dreams to lead them in successful battle against the They stripped to the skin, daubed on the war paint and started to meet, as they supposed, the

approaching foe. Frost informed them that they would meet the Crows just beyond the first hill. They reached the summit of the hill, but no hostile tribes appeared. But their faith was not shaken. Frost led them on with the promise that the next hill would reveal the Crows, and so he urged them on and on until they had many miles. The Sioux are still a warlike people, and the further they marched the braver became, until they warmed up to the regular scalping heat, and it was found necessary to send out the to bring them back to the agency. cavalry overtook the warlike braves about twenty out, but the only Indian who had committed an offence was Frost, and he therefore was the was marched back in front of the cavalry, and it is Indeed to be regretted that a photograph of the United solitary Indian dreamer back to the agency could not have been obtained. is reported that the soldiers fully realized the ridiculous appearance which they would present marching into camp behind the lone and helpless Indian, and that they killed time in the most soldierly manner that they might arrive at the agency after dark and thus cheat the photographer.

Having proven a false prophet in matters of war, Frost tried his hand in the matter of miracles. The agency is named for a rock which stands on end-Standing Rock-and the old Indian tradition is that this rock is a petrified squaw, who was turned into stone while weeping for her falthless lover. This story is believed implicitly by the Indians and is not very strongly doubted by the half-breeds and the superstitious whites. Recently the rock, which had been knocked about carclessly for years, was put in a permanent place on a stone pedestal and with the most impressive coremony was painted to resemble the only Indian of the tribe who had never sinned. Frost sat gazing at the stone one evening after his arrest and in a solemn, cavernous voice informed the Indian about him that he could make the standing rock come to him at any time he desired. This assertion created

to him at any time he desired. This assertion created a sensation among the Indians far greater than his startiling war news. The sacred Standing Rock stands next to the Great spirit in the estimation of the Indians at this agency. At first the warriors expressed doubt, but Frost was so positive and confident in his assertions that they finally believed, and a time for the miracle was appointed. Frost sent out to the camps for his singers and dancers and they responded as promptly as their ponies would permit. The Indians came from all parts of the reservation, and on the evening designated there was an immense assemblage of nervous and expectant braves.

Frost took a seat at the agency building, directly opposite the Standing Bock and gave the signal for his singers to open their concert of aboriginal discord. It was a novel as well as a most humorous sight. The confident medicine man had unbounded faith in his ability to make the selid and immovable rock walk to where he was sitting. He did not tell whether the expected the rock to fig, to roll, or to take on legs and walk over in the aregular pigeon-tood squaw fashion. In all probability he expected the stone to assume the shape of the squaw it once was and trot over to embrace him. But the stone remained mute, motionless and irresponsive. The great medicine man stirred his medicine, cast pleading eyes at the rock did not move.

Not satisfied with the first trial he repeated his

design and then painted yellow. To the THE YOUNGEST POLICEMAN IN THE CITY brought Peter to the

MONIZING A FOUR-YEAR-OLD BOY WHO WAS FOUND IN THE STREETS AND TAKEN TO

A POLICE STATION. A street Arab found a little fellow wandering around simlessly the other day near Thirty-fourth-st. and Broadway. He took him in charge and handed him over to the sergeant of the Thirtieth-st. police station, saying that he thought "the kid too well-dressed and too young to be about the streets." When the sergeant sked the boy what his name was he said that it was

Charley Smith. Where do you live !" asked the sergeant, kindly. "Don't know exactly; somewhere near Central Park, I guess. I'm Central Park Charley. Guess

I'm lost, ain't 1 ?"

"Yes, I think you are," answered the sergeant with "What's your father's name?" "Charley; same as mine. Say, mister, I like you.

don't mind stopping here."

Well, you're welcome. Come into the back room and make yourself at home," and the man took the eurly-haired child into the patrol-room. When Charley reached the room there were some sixty big policemen there washing up, polishing their boots and getting ready to go before the captain before relieving the day force. They all shook hands with the little fellow and gave him so many pennies that the pockets of his diminutive ulster were filled.

"This is a pretty fine place," he said to a red-faced, smiling policeman.

"Oh, yes," answered the other with a grin, "it's fine."

"Would they care if I took one?" pointing to the rack of police clubs.

wiping his dripping face and bending over the child He marched gravely around, saluting all the men with his club almost as tall as he. The laughing fel lows clapped their hands in approval and the child bowed low with great dignity. Some one mentioned the Captain's name and Charley said he guessed he'd go see the Captain. They asked him to fall in line with the rest, and the little fellow did so, his stick over his shoulder. He marched by the side of a big roundsman, whose knees almost came up to the boy's head. As the line filed out the door and before the Captain's desk, the young peliceman stamped timp with his little boots, marching proudly with the others, The men were all laughing at the boy's jaunty air arc Captain Reilly called out sharply, "Order." They could not stop laughing, however, and the captain rose from his seat and looked sternly at the fifty or more As he leaned over his desk, he saw the ros; face of the boy looking up at him.

"Hello, Captain," said Charley, nodding his little head at the grizzled one just above him. "Well," said the Captain, breathlessly, "who are

"Policeman Charley, of Central Park," said the boy

knowingly, saluting with his big club. "Well, Policeman Charley," said the Captain, "just

sit up here alongside of me. I will detail you on special duty." sit up here alongside of me. I will detail you on special duty."

The little chap was lifted up on one of the high stools next to the Caprain's. He looked over the register, pretended to rend all the letters within his reach, brushed a thread from the captain's goat, and then began industriously to scrawl all over the papers before him with a pen. He and the Captain had a friendly chat for half an hour. Then the two dined together, and afterward the captain hunted around until he found a smaller club for the boy. When he was taken away the next day, all the men gave him a hearty farewell and the captain gave him a watch-charm and a quarter as a reward for faithful service. Charley said when he left the station that "being policeman was fun."

had been treated in the out-door department, while the the passage of this act, but its advocates stated that demands upon the dispensary and hospital had been far the decision of the Supreme Court declaring these beyond its capacity. The officers have fell themselves bond its capacity. The officers have fell themselves crippled, both in their finances and their accommodations, and have been unable to do as extensive work among the sick poor as was imperatively needed. The receipts from the first the credit of the State should not now be tar-

Temple, in East Fifteenth-st., although not so large as they would have been if the weather tad been more favor-able, were nearly \$3,000, and will greatly assist the dis-There is still need, pensary in carrying on its work. There is still need however, for increased provision for attending to the people in this neighborhood.

COBBETT AND HIS WORKS.

A LETTER FROM ONE OF HIS DAUGHTERS.

INTERESTING REMINISCENCES OF AN ENGLISH

WRITER AND PUBLIC MAN. The following letter from a daughter of the author of "Cobbett's Grammar" has been received by Mr. Robert Waters, of Hoboken, who recently

published a biography of Cobbett: Chapel Lane, Welmslow, Manchester, 1 October, 1888. Dear Sir: A friend has lately lent us (to my sister and myself) your interesting book called " How On in the World," in which I see, p. 186, that you are at a loss to find the place in "Cobbett's Grammar"

and "such." You will find this in para, 183 Allow me to say that we have found great pleasure in reading your book, in which you show so much more discrimination and good judgment regarding my father's character and nature and his motives and actions than have ever been found in aimost any of the "Lives" or "Sketches" of him that I have ever seen, although there was a small sketch of him by Chambers, which was free from the usual ill-nature and misrepresentation.

There have been many "booksellers' books' about my father, and many catch penny notices of him it little magazines, all, of course, containing a certain quantity of odd and amusing anecdotes, calculated to make the production sell, but without the least regard to truth in their selection, and those who have prepared these things have, of course, belonged to that class of persons whom my father stigmatized as "The To this race belonged the Rev. quoted of any writer on Cobbett. I have never seen aim mentioned by any one but yourself, and no doubt his book has not been referred to in England because the sheeking event which closed his career, and which, as proceeding from mental derangement, dered it necessary to keep him in seclusion for the rest of his life. In America the case would be differ-

Te the race that write Lord Dalling did not belong, but even he could catch up anecdotes and use them in the idlest manner, although one would look upon such a man as a credible authority. He, however, told over again that attractive fiction of "The Times" newspaper, ton; and Lord Dalling told another anecdote of his own to the Speaker's dinner on entering Parliament, he declined the invitation on the plea that he was unus to the company of gentlemen! It is very likely that some member might have been returned to that Parliament of 1832 who might feel a modest reluctance to make one of such company, and Lord Dalling had perhaps seen the latter, and afterward in a harumscarum way, have confused the men in his own mind, but no biographer should be so little accurate. As it happened my father could not go to the dinner became country, and he went out of the door telling my brother

When, therefore, Lord Dalling's book came out, my to "The Standard" explaining that he had written the letter for his father to the Speaker, and had not given any such reason for declining the invitation. that he should give directions for the anecdotes to be reached a second edition I do not know. It was his did not do, and his conduct serves to show how little truth there is in biographies and how little

duty to publish his apology in "The Standard," but this he did not do, and his conduct serves to show how little truth there is in biographies and how little honor in the writers of them, as well as how great is their ignorance of the subjects on which they are writing.

We have been surprised whilst reading your book to find that you have so clearly seen the real state of the case in some of those questions which have been handled again and again by those discussing my father's action in matters of consequence, such as the court marrial affair and the Pitt dinner, which latter we were children, and when the parties were all alive. And what a bother has been made for so many years about this simple event!

We are also much pleased at your republishing the "English Granmar," and agree completely with what you say in the preface as to its excellence. It has been such a famous little book, and we remember the commotion is made when it came out. The booksellers were so eager for it that the street in front of the publisher's house was packed with their messengers long before the time for opening, and the shutters were kept up to protect the windows. The political allusions took people quite by surprise, particularly assentence near the beginning of parts. Ed. where are kept up to protect the windows. The political allusions took people quite by surprise, particularly assentence near the beginning of parts. Ed. where are kept up to protect the windows. The political allusions took people quite by surprise, particularly assentence near the beginning of parts. Ed. where are kept up to protect the windows. The political allusions took people quite by surprise, particularly assentence near the beginning of parts. Ed. where are kept up to protect the windows. The political allusions took people quite by surprise, particularly assentence near the beginning of parts. Ed. where are kept up to protect the windows. The political allusions took protect quite by surprise, particularly assentence of that day. A friend of my fath

brought Peter to the block." The words originally were: "Sidmonth, with Oilver the Spy, have brought hrandred to the block," which was a daring sentence for that day. A friend of my father's happened to be at the sale of a gentleman's library just hen, and he heard Lord Brougham say to Lord Sidmonth: "Have you seen Cobbett's Grammar's to which Lord Sidmonth answered: "You know I have and that is why you ask me."

It will be interesting to you to hear that we possess the very Lowth's grammar with which my father provided himself when he was a young man, and as you think so highly of his writings, you will doubtless also like to hear that we have occupied ourselves for many years in endeavoring to get together some complete sets of my father's "Political Register," for the purpose of placing them in public libraries, where they would be read and be safe. We have succeeded in completing nine sets, which we have sent to some of the principal iltraries in England, Scotland and America, as well as one to Australia. All these libraries have been glad to purchase them, and though it has been a great satisfaction to us to be able to preserve the volumes which we got together, still it has been a very constant work to us to collect all the volumes of a periodical published weekly during so long a range of years, and to see that every page was there and every title-page.

In doing this, too, we have not been in the situation

the page.

In doing this, too, we have not been in the situation of booksellers, who could go to sales and buy the books in lots, and sell again what they did not want. We could only do like private prisons and try to go what we wanted by writing to various booksellers for the country of th could only do like private p isons and try to get what we wanted by writing to various booksellers for what they might have, and you may suppose what a trouble and expense this has been; but we have had it much at heart, because our cliest sister, who died in 1877, and who had written "The Register" from dictation during a great many years of her life, and looked upon every volume as so much old gold, determined, at my father's death, to make up a few sets if possible, and she having collected a large number of volumes before her death, we have been anxious to carry on her work. We have at present a set to dispose of, each volume complete in lifles, contents and index, for though my father published many of the laier volumes without indexes, one of his grandsons, who is a so'letter in Manchester, has taken the trouble to go through these volumes and make the indexes, in order to make the work complete as to reference. Those we have sent to America have gone to Boston and to Baltimore, and if you should know any library elsewhere where a set of the "Political Registor" is wanted, I should like to send it, for we have goat pleasure in reflecting that we have placed these valuable books within the reach of many who will prize them. We might also supply the missing volumes to those air any possessing part of a set. We are so much pleased with your book that we intend to inquire of London booksellers the way to procure it, as it gives no intimation of being published in Englizad, and we wish that our nephews should possess a copy of it. With the united sincere regards of my sister and myself, believe me, dear sir, yours of my truly.

**HOW "CHIVALEY" WINS IN THE SOUTH,

HOW "CHIVALEY" WINS IN THE SOUTH. Charleston, S. C., Dec. 21.-A notice of contest was erved on Saturday upon William Elllott, Democrat by Thomas E. Miller, Republican camdidates for Cen-gress in the VIIth District of this State. The causes given for the conlest by Mr. Miller are in part as follows: That a majority of the legal voters in the district cast their votes for him; that all the managers of the election were Democrats and refused to let many Republicans vote who had proper registration certificates; that in certain precincts which are mentioned in the notice the Democratic managers defrauded Mr. Miller out of 1,282 votes which were actually east for him, and that every species of fraud known to Southern election methods was employed to nullify and frustrate the will of the inhabitants of the district.

frustrate the will of the inhabitants of the district.

It is further charged that the Governor of the State and the election managers had a preconcerted plan to give Mr. Elliott a majority of the voters in the district, no matter for whom they were cast, and that in some election precincts where Mr. Miller was known to have a strong fellowing, the polls were not allowed

SOUTH CAROLINA TOWNSHIP BONDS VALID.

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 21 (Special).-South-Carolina's credit was redeemed Wednesday night, when her Legislature passed an act making valid all township bonds issued in aid of railroads, but providing that taxes for the interest on these honds should not be levied until the roads had been completed through the townships. A large work among the sick poor of the East Side has a substitute for the hill passed by the several years been done to the Eclectic College Discussity. One of the officers said to a Tribene reporter cother evening that during the past year 2,000 patients. The bonds. There was a strong fight made against the decision of the Supreme Court declaring these bonds invalid had already injured the credit of the

DON MANUEL'S DELUSIONS. A DEMORALIZED POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

HIS DEFENCE CONFIRMS THE TRIBUNE'S

CHARGES - THE FACTS WERE NOT " DIS-TORTED"-TRYING TO SHIFT THE ISSUE. INT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

Washington, Dec. 21.-Don Manuel Dickinson, with the aid of a corps of assistants, and after three days of "toil and trouble," has emitted a "statement" through the accommodating columns of "The Newdegree counteract the effect of the terribly damaging exposure in The Tribune recently of the wholereport of the Postmaster-General and the message of President Cleveland. It is apparent that the exposure has made Don Manuel squirm to that extent that he has lost the small remnant of mental composure which remarkable increase in the efficiency and good conduct of every branch of the postal service since the spring of 1883, are garbled and distorted so as to lead uninstructed reader to suppose that the whole service is as bad as bad can be, if not utterly demoralized.

The Tribune's assertions are sustained in every particular by the "tables of statistics" which appear in the report of the present Postmaster-General and his predecessors. The "statement" under two heads: First, a criticism of The Tribune's treatment of the statistics relating to the "Dea Letter" Division, and second, a complaint that "The Tribune suppressed some of the most interesting figures in Mr. Dickinson's report." The defence admits the correctness of The Tribune's

"distorted" figures respecting the "expansion" dead letter business, and asserts that people who mail letters and parcels for the "expansion." responsible but no explanation is vouchsafed as to why ber of careless persons who use the mails has in annum during the last three years of a Republican Administration. The defence also admits that in the letter or parcel out of every eight-of the "dead" creation, which was that when my father was invited a million letters and parcels subjected to months of red tape and delay, when they might have been question witch the "statement" does not answe and yet it would seem to be a pertinent one. The fact itself is positive evidence of the falsity of the assertion that "mistakes of senders" are solely responsible for the enormous grist of matter poured into the hopper of the Dead Letter Office.

any attempt to prove that The Tribune's statements respecting the multitudinous errors-errors to be num masters and postal clerks were "garbled or distorted." could not do that without denouncing as untrustworthy, false and misleading his own "tables of

What were those statements? In brief as follows Decrease in number of "incorrect slips" returned by per of said slips, 1885-1888, 76 per cent; decrease 6 1-10 per cent; increase, 1885-1888, 98 per cent.

Increase in number of "missent" letter par pouches and sacks, 1882-1885, four-fifths of cent; increase, 1885-1888, 75 per cent. Increase in number of errors checked by clerks against other employes, 1882-1885, 4 per

WHAT THE CAMPAIGN DID FOR THE NAVY

THE APPROPRIATIONS FOR REPAIRS SPENT AND SEVEN FISCAL MONTHS YET TO BUN.

Washington, Dec. 22 (Special) .- A survey of the facts connected with the suspension of work on the repairs of vessels at the Navy Yards at New York, Norfolk and Mare Island discloses the one fact that these epairs are almost wholly under the direction of the Bureau of Construction and Repair. Although no official at the Navy Department shows a desire to discuss the matter openly, among the officers themselves there is much criticism of this Bureau and the active interest it took in furnishing employment to as large a number of workmen as possible during the campaign. It is semi-officially stated that of the \$825,000 appropriated by Congress for this Bureau for repairs to vessels for the useal year ending June 30, 1889, more than ninety per cent has been expended in less than five of the twelve months, and yet the repairs of the vessels at the Navy Yards are not completed. One of the evil results of this injudicious interest

in a political campaign by a department of the military branch of the Government is that the four vessels of the North Atlantic Squadron which to have started on the annual cruise among the West Indies on November 10 are still at the New-York and Norfolk Navy Yards. The flagship Pensacola is at Norfolk with the work on on her suspended. Her hull and timbers are reported sound, but much is needed to be done upon her decks and upon her spars and rigging before she can go to sea. The Ossipee is in the dry-dock at Norfolk and her repairs are to be completed at once. It will certainly take some time o have the planking repaired. This has been removed under the water-line to put in several new knees. It was a little surprising that just before election seventy-six of the live-oak knees should have been found so cracked and rotten as to make a sex her up in ordinary-the excuse being "insufficiency of appropriation by a parsimonious Congress," but, in fact, an injudicious and extravagant use of the money in hand for campaign purposes. The Galena, of the same squadron, only left the

New-York yard a few days ago for Haytt. She has a understanding, which will unconsciously regulate benew commander, and a winter cruise is in prospect for her. There was some doubt whether the repairs necessary upon the Yantic could be completed in time for her to accompany the Galena. The work upon her was temporarily suspended with the exception of completing the new deck, and then she was ordered to be nade ready for sea without delay in view of the been ity. The manual will do no har if you use it to Havtian troubles. The unserviceable condition of these vessels just after election made it necessary for the Navy Department to order the Kearsarge to be put Navy Department to order the Kearsarge to be put they were chromo manners, the ingenious mimicry of deep into commission at the Poetsmouth Navy Yard, and and tender color. Gilding and plating there will always hurried off to protect American interests at Hayri be. But we must remember that gold and silver are ducing the insurrection there. She put into Hampion still the only precious metals. Ponds on November 15, with Captain Brown came or to Washington to see about having some necessary repairs to her hollers completed before going further, and to get coal and other supplies at Norfolk. On the day before her arrival at Hampton Reads it was learned that the Boston had arrived at Port at Prince, Hayti, where she was ordered to remain while Captain Ramsay investigated the cause for seizing the American steamer Haytien Republic. The Kearsarge is now on her way to Brazil with a new crew for the Tallapoosa. The Paclific Squadron is not so badly off, still four of its nine vessels are at Mare Island, with the house. It read as follows: "P. S.—Don't it best New-York how h—i weat?" or to Washington to see about having some necessary

Ramsay investigated the cause for seizing the American bemocrat, he had to, of constant with the following the fol

Adams is at Samoa, protecting American interests there pending a revolution; the Nipsic is on her way to Samos from Callao; the Pinta is at Sitia; the Trenton is at Callao, and the Alert is at Honolulu. The Dolphin, Mohican, Vandalia and Mohongabela are at Mare Island waiting to be made ready for soa.

IN A BOWERY PAWNSHOP.

A RUSH FOR OVERCOATS-THE LINE DRAWN AT

WOODEN LEGS. "We are doing a rushing business since the weather got cold," said a Bowery pawnbroker, last week. All the overcoats which, to use a political exgoing out at the rate of fifteen or twenty a day. carried at least 5,000 this summer, and if the weather keeps chilly eighty per cent of them will be called

for before the present mouth expires."

The money lender stopped talking as a tall, gaunt man, with unkempt hair and a seedy appearance generally, stalked into the store and handed his ticket across the counter with as much composure as if he had called for a glass of ale.

"Three dollars," said the proprietor, "and six nonths' interest-54 cents-\$3 54."

The scely-looking man dived into his pocket and counted out the cash, seized a rusty overcoat which the pawnbroker pushed toward him and left the store with a look on his face as if he had met a long-lost

Then an old weather-heaten creature, who out a scant living by peddling spectacles, offered a bunch of his stock in trade and requested the loan

of \$2 for a week. "I'll let you have \$1," said the pawnbroker.

"Can't you make it \$1 50 !" "One," was the metallic response

The forlorn old man departed with his dollar. A buxom Irishwoman, whose good humor shone all over her Celtic face, stepped up to the counter and spread out a parcel containing faded coats, sacques, etc. "The ould mon is under the weather," said the woman, cheerily, "and says plaze sind 'im phwat ye can spare on th' pile." and went away, her face beaming with smiles.

A dried-up, dark-visaged Italian limped into the

wooden leg.
"No," said the pawnbroker, shaking his head, "we draw the line at wooden legs."

A woman of fragile form and respectable appearance laid some bracelets, rings, etc., on the counter and asked for \$30. The money was handed to her without a word.

the pawnbroker, when she had closed the door behind her, "it is only after all other expedients have failed, and nine times out of ten they eventually lose A young man of quiet mien took his place before

the money lender and handed him a ticket and four \$10 notes. The pawnbroker handed him in return a handsome gold watch. He fastened it in his waistcoat and went out whistling. "I have tried for years to get that watch," said

the man behind the counter, "but he comes in at the Next on this list of impocualous visitors was a little girl hardly ton years of age. There was an air of cleanliness about her thin clothes that bespoke respeciable parents. She unroised two children's dresses, a woman's dress and a cloak.

"Please, sir, mother says send her \$1," said the child. "She's too sick to come to-day."

"Fifty cents is all she can get on these."

A look of disappointment clouded the innocent young face, and after wrapping up the miserable pittance several times in the folds of her apron the child walked out.

And so the scene kept constantly changing. But last minute always and redeems it."

ecollection are denounced as false prophets. Pick has delivered one or two lectures in Chickering of reasons—they did not know how to r Hall, to audiences in which the feminine element prememory had not grown since their early childhood, mous terms. in the study and development of the substitute they man delicacy, Mullet, you emerge triumphantly at an inedible Door-pots, is one of the most notable examples

Mental innuendo" is one that is apt to occur to a causal investigator. Now, conceive of the feelings of Mr. Madison Stuyresant, when after a mnemonical breakfast in which his wife has been persuaded to reach the butter by a mental flaggelation like the stick-and-bladder methods of the sleepy Laputan philosophers, she sits staring and motionless over her chocolate, till presently she gasps and gurgies, and waves a roll feebly with her

right hand.

"What in the name of everything is it, my dear?"
exclaims her perpiexed lovd.

"A-a-ra-oh! Arcenic!"

"What!"

"What!" Arsenic poison; poison rats; ra's, skins; skins; furs; furs-seal, sealskin jacket; jacket-pocket; pocket-cash, cash-husband." With her memory thus braced, she makes the demand indicated in her spasmodic progress from the "catch-word," and the chances are that Mr. Madison Stuyvesant is so overjoyed to find evidences of sound intellect in the request to counter act his first impressions of the manner of making it has be greenfully neededs to: that he gracefully accedes to it.

GOOD MANNERS.

G. W. Curtis in Harper's Magazine. But fine manners no code can teach. If they are con-scious they become artificial and are fine no longer. A man indeed may be taught to avoid grossness and impudence and not to mistake them for ease. The youth who puffs a cigarette when he is waiking with a lady, who is free and easy instead of scrupulously courteous in his ad-dress and tone, may be told that he is merely ungentle-manly and vulgar; and if he choose he may correct his

acquired, and its extent depends upon the power of accurate observation. Is it not Goethe's Connoisseur who asks to see the best pictures? But what determines voyage dangerous. It is believed to be the intention and kind of reputation? The manners which strike to do no more upon her than to put her out of Daisy Miller as fine, and which she will emulate, are not commission, replace the old planking, and lay those which would attract another. The manual indeed, fact that it is drawn by Daisy Miller or by another. The how you are behaving, but always to cultivate that kind-

sweet smile and good-morning children crossed the street to see and hear, had studied no manual, but was taught by her own kind heart. Had she been cold, selfish, haughty, supercillous, her manner, however darrling, would have correct obvious faults of behavior. But good manners spring from a good heart. They may be imitated, indeed. The manners of Aaron Burr were called fascinating. But

A STRICTLY DEMOCRATIC VIEW.

THE SAD WAIL OF A DISILLUSIONIZED MAN-I say it advisedly-whatever is isn't. Are two and two four? I suspect so, but I'm not betting that they are. The fact is, I've been driven into a state of mind in which I'm prepared to have it demonstrated that two and two are three or perhaps five, and where did I begin to be taken this way? I'll tell you. For the last ten years or more I devote deep drawer in my desk to refutations of the world's more or less cherished beliefs in reference to all sorts of persons and things. The other even I tumbled out the contents of this drawer and looked it over. The result was that the longer I read the

more firmly convinced I. became that whatever i

isn't-not if the iconoclasts can help it.

I think you'll admit that the two most apples of which this world holds record are the one which Eve presented to Adam and the one which William Tell shot from his son's head. Baring-Gould proves that the Tell apple never was, while a Vale professor suggests that Adam was tempted by a quince. When I was a schoolboy there was a spirited picture of the affecting Tell incident in one of my text-books. The apple wasn't bigger than an egg plum, and we boys, I remember, agree that Tell had plenty of nerve beside being an A No. shot. Nevertheless, the story won't wash. been resolved into a fairy tale or something of that unsubstantial sort common to many countries. As

day is propagated from the crab-apple and it at all likely that Adam would have been taken in by such a puckery little bait." Now let some one take the floor and dispose of the other historic apple-the one which Sir Isaac Newton watched let him show that it was a cabbage or a crooked-neck

Making an abrupt transition from apples to military beroes, I came upon sems more widespread, deep-rooted but exploded beliefs. There was Kosciusko. Didn't Campbell tell us in so many words that Hope for a season bade the world farewell And Freedom shricked as Kosciusko fell.

Of course he did. But it seems he was mistaker asked the proprietor how much he could get on a to this extent. Hope didn't shrick nor did Keset sake fall on the occasion referred to. Of course if he had fallen Hore very properly might have expressed blooded but painstaking chronicler reminds us killed by a fall from his horse some years after he had quit fighting. Then look at Ethan Allen. How I used to thrill as I read his stately invitation for the surrender of Ticonderoga: "In the name of Jehovah and the Continental Congress." later researches !- show that Ethan used the following here, you blanked old rat." And then again consider what has happened to Leonidas. From time imme-merial he has been credited with winning the day at Thermopylae with practically nobody to help him-t that he has discovered that Leonidas was backed up by an army 7,000 strong the morning that Xerxes Do you blame me for holding that whatever is isn't

Some years ago a paper was read in this city by An abstract of it was published at the graduates. time and it was among the scraps which I fished our of the drawer of my desk. Here is an extract from

"Please, sir, mother says send ner Si," said the child. "She's too sick to come to-day."

"Pifty cents is all she can get on these."

A look of disappointment clouded the innocent young face, and after wrapping up the miserable pittance several times in the folds of her apron the child walked out.

And so the scene kept constantly changing. But the call for overcoats was oft renewed, and many of them were taken out of the "soup" before the reporter left the place.

LOOPS AND CHAINS FOR MEMORY.

HOW SOME NEW-YORK WOMEN TRY TO IMPROVE THEIR POWERS OF RECOLLECTION.

The society ladies of this city are cultivating with assiduity a "fad" which promises to be more far reaching and exasperating in its consequences among ordinary people than aestheticism, or fancy fairs, or Volapuk. It wears perhaps a closer relation to Volapuk than the other two deceased social eccentricities mentioned, as its connection with the faculty of memory may be considered somewhat similar to that in which Volapuk stands to the habit of language.

Its promulgator is a venerable and learned German named Professor Pick, who has published a Koran of mnemonics in which, as in the text-book of Mahometanism, all other systems of artificial momory and all other exponents of the art of ready recollection are denounced as false prophets.

Dr. Pick has delivered one or two lectures in Chickering

Whatever is isn't-isn't it? Suppose we call dominated. There are few women in New-York Thomas Jefferson to the stand. For years and years who attended these lectures or read reports of them it was popularly supposed that Jefferson and Spartan in the papers who have not discovered that their simplicity, Jefferson and cheese-paring were synony. and could not walk alone. They have vied with each erally accepted phrase like "ne plus ultra" or "you by the Professor. They have emulated each other in Tribune one morning and there was a letter from displays of a total lack of voluntary recollection; and blood relation of Mr. Jeffer-on. He said that the was no foundation for the assertion that his illustrious have out-Picked Pick. It will be remembered by ancestor was an exponent of simplicity, the fact persons of normal recollective powers that suggestion being that Thomas loved the good things of this is the basis of the mnemonical system now in vogue; life, had them, and lived generously. Just so: My and the easy transition of words that loop with each next witness is General Stark. Fight's he cash into other in a chain of fifteen or twenty, till from the Ro- the battle of Bennington crying: "We hold that field to-night or Mollie Stark's a widow!" Certainly he did; every school boy knows that he did. But stop a minute. A man steps to the frame habling in his hand a branch from the Stark genealogical tree. This of the new school. By what name shall we call it! branch shows that the General's wife. " the daughter of Caleb Page, of Starlstown, now Dumharton, N. H., was named Elizabeth." You can't get Mollie out of Elizabeth, "The General," so the iconoclasts in Very likely. Whatever is isn't.

What more? Much more. More than there is room for. Was Joan of Are burned at the state? It is stoutly held that she was not—that she perished by proxy. Did Shakespeare write the plays of Shake speare?-but we won't go into that. The phrase sweetness and light" is well nigh universally supposed to have originated with Matthew Arnold. not long ago a correspondent of "The London Times" held that Philo Judaeus was its father. What out of the coal business, ever doubted that Lehtch coal was Lehigh coal? Nevertheless a Philadelphia denier assured a reporter the other day that "half the con-modity sold in this city as it high coal comes from other localities." Recently Alife Larrier, a missionary, published a pamphlet on the great wall of China, pointing out that there was not now and never had been such a structure. Was Lucrotta Borgia a model of practical piety! Possibly not; still, according to William Waldorf Astor, who turned his attention to her character while he was Mini ter to Italy, she was by no means as black as she has been painted. Everybody calls for "saddle rock" oysters and everybody gets them. But professional oyster openers state—not necessarily for publication that the cyster behavior; certainly he would correct it if the lady showed him that she required the correction. The impudence of young men generally reflects the weakness of young women. If they required courtesy there would be little insolent freedom of behavior upon the part of their concrete. Yet an authority on bleds informs "The Philadelphia News" that "the old, old story about must be acquired in the school of experience. It is, of the vanity of the peacock is a miscrable myth." A course, a superficial and external knowledge which is so writer in "Nature" shows that flying lish are the spable of flying. John Buryan's claim to the anthorship of "The Pilgrim's Progress" does not go unchal enged. It is said that he translated it from the French; and within a week Lincoln's "government of the people," etc., has been attributed to Theodore Pucker, Heber sang of "cool Siloam's shady till"; all the same a wideawake traveller returned from Sloam to report that there wasn't any rill, shady or amony, anywhere near Siloam. The little hatchet of the immortal

But why multiply instances? If whatever is isn't what is

History will please receive from me the assurances of my distinguished consideration. RICHARD SCUDDER

PRETTY LITTLE TRICKS AT NATIONEZ. Natchez, Miss., Dec. 21.-Some racy facts about

a ballot box that was "accidentally" burned at the late election, and other entertaining devices that this State, will be brought before the List Congress by the contest which Lean C. Duchesne, the Repub lican candidate, will bring against his so far suc cessful Democratic opponent, Thomas it stochase, the house w. Mr. Bust and served on Mr. Stochasle, at Washington, specific charges of an extremely damaging character are made, from which it appears that to include on faisification and francis of every conceivable land, the fasilication and francis of every conceivable laind, the Republican candidate was challed out of several thousand votes which were actually case for him, white an indefinite number of his supporters were prevented from casting their votes at all. The burning of a ballot box took place in Kingston Precinct, Adams County, where there is a large Republican majority, the Bourbon managers o, election all exing that it was done by "blazing scaling wax falling through the ballot hole in the lid of the box." This "accident" happened after the votes were all in and the box locked, and the precinct was thrown out.